

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**

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IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

Nurse Practitioner
Continuing Education Course Requirements - Schedule II Controlled Substance

Assembly Bill 1196, (Montañez), regarding nurse practitioners and Schedule II controlled substances became effective January 1, 2004. This law amends Business and Professions Code Section 2836.1 (Furnishing Drugs and Devices) that expands furnishing authority to include pharmaceutical drugs that are classified as Schedule II controlled substances under the California Uniform Controlled Substance Act. A current nurse practitioner furnishing number is required.

This statute requires nurse practitioners to complete a continuing education course that includes Schedule II controlled substances based on standards developed by the Board of Registered Nursing. In addition to a standardized procedure, the provisions for furnishing Schedule II controlled substances must address the diagnosis of illness, injury or condition for which the Schedule II controlled substance is to be furnished. Drugs and devices furnished or ordered by a nurse practitioner may now include Schedule II through V controlled substances under the California Uniform Controlled Substance Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 1100) of the Health and Safety Code) and are limited only to those drugs and devices agreed upon by the nurse practitioner and physician and surgeon and specified in the standardized procedure.

Nurse practitioners wishing to furnish or order Schedule II controlled substances are required to complete a Board of Registered Nursing approved continuing education course **prior** to application to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for a Schedule II registration number.

Please find below the course description and objectives which the Board of Registered Nursing intends to promulgate as regulations. The Continuing Education Course must be a minimum of 3 hours.

Course Description:

1. Focus on the principles of pharmacology that serve as a foundation for the pharmacotherapeutic management of patient whose illness, injury, or condition requires evaluation and treatment using Schedule II controlled substances.
2. The pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles of Schedule II medications commonly used in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of health care conditions affecting patients across the life span.
3. Provide a discussion about standardized procedure or protocol requirements for those patient illnesses, diseases, or injuries requiring a patient-specific protocol for Schedule II and III controlled substances.
4. Address the legal requirements for furnishing controlled substances.

Minimum Course Objectives:

1. Identify the relationship of the natural history of illness, disease or injury, pathophysiology, and symptomatology to pharmacotherapeutic agents commonly used to treat patients with conditions requiring the use of Schedule II medications related to specialty practice.
2. Analyze state laws and federal regulations pertaining to furnishing, dispensing, and administering Controlled Substances Schedule II through V medication by nurse practitioners.
3. Identify components necessary for proper techniques of prescription writing for Schedule II through V medication consistent with Health and Safety and Pharmacy laws.
4. Outline the required components of a furnishing standardized procedure or protocol for Schedule II and III controlled substance medications in a Patient-Specific Protocol in accord with Business and Profession Code, Section 2836.1. The nurse practitioners' education, experience, and competence to furnish controlled substances must be included.
5. Describe ethical and legal standards and ramifications of prescribing controlled substances.